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10/664,446	09/18/2003	Takatomo Nishino	09792909-5672	4529
26263	7590	08/18/2011	EXAMINER	
SNR DENTON US LLP P.O. BOX 061080 CHICAGO, IL 60606-1080			DOVE, TRACY MAE	
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			1726	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

This Office Action is in response to the communication filed on 6/20/11. Applicant's arguments have been considered, but are not persuasive. Claims 1-5 and 7-11 are pending. This Action is FINAL, as necessitated by amendment.

Priority

Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) based upon an application filed in Japan on 9/17/02. A claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) cannot be based on said application, since the United States application was filed more than twelve months thereafter. Examiner points out that while the preliminary amendment filed on 9/18/03 has amended the specification to recite "priority under 35 U.S.C. 119 is not claimed", the declaration/oath filed on 3/8/04 does not indicate priority is not being claimed (box on page 2 is not checked).

Appropriate correction is required.

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claims Analysis

Claim 1 recites "effected by applying a compressive force and a shearing force to at least a part of a surface of a base material when the composite material is formed", which is not given patentable weight because it is a product-by-process limitation. Claim 7 also recites this limitation. See 9/24/10 Board decision affirming the Examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

Art Unit: 1726

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1-5 and 7-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Claims 1 and 7 recite "a mass ratio of the carbonaceous material to the base material is from and including 0.1 to and including 8.0", which is not supported by the specification as filed. Page 8 of the specification discloses "the mass ratio of the base material and the carbonaceous material in the composite material is preferably within a range from 0.1 to 8.0 inclusive for the carbonaceous material relative to 100 for base material". See also page 15.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

Art Unit: 1726

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-5 and 7-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)/103(a) as being anticipated by, and alternatively unpatentable over, Kawakami et al., US 6,432,585.

Kawakami teaches a battery comprising an anode, a cathode and an electrolyte. The anode comprises an anode structural body 10. The structural body comprises a host material 101 in an amount of 50 wt% or more. If the electrode structural body is used in a lithium battery, the host material comprises one or more elements selected from the group consisting of Si, Sn and In (11:1-18). When Si is used as the host material, Cu, Ni, Ag or Sn may partially cover the surface of the Si particles (11:30-67). Si may contain an impurity such as Al, Ca, Cr, Fe, Mg, Mn or Ni to decrease the electric resistance of the electrode material layer 102 (12:1-5). Thus, Kawakami teaches a Si-Sn-Fe host material. The layer 102 may comprise the host material 101 and an electrically conductive auxiliary in order to assist and increase the electron conduction among particles of the host material or that between the host material and the collector. It is preferred the electrically conductive auxiliary be contained in an amount of 1-30 wt%. The electrically conductive auxiliary may be a carbonaceous material such as acetylene black, ketjen black or graphite. The electrically conductive auxiliary may be in a filament-like, fibrous or needle-like form. The host material and carbonaceous material are mechanically mixed using a ball mill or the like (compressive/shearing force) (12:46-13:9). See also column 19, line 50-column 20, line 23. See also Example 12. Furthermore, the metallic material as the electrically conductive auxiliary can

Art Unit: 1726

include iron (Fe) (13:3-5). Thus, in addition to the Sn host material described at column 15, line 65-column 16, line 12, the electrode material may comprise a iron electrically conductive auxiliary material. Note the claims do not require the base material necessarily be an alloy including tin and Fe.

Thus the claims are anticipated. Kawakami does not explicitly state the host material and carbonaceous material are bonded by van der Waals forces. However, when the host material and carbon material are mechanically mixed using a ball mill or the like (compressive/shearing force), the host material and carbon material are inherently attracted by van der Waals forces (weak attractive forces acting between molecules; see Hawley's Condensed Chemical Dictionary, page 1217). In order for the carbon material to assist and increase the electron conduction among particles of the host material, the carbon material must be in contact with the host material.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 6/20/11 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant asserts Kawakami fails to teach "a mass ratio of the carbonaceous material to the base materials is from and including 0.1 to and including 8.0". Note this limitation has been rejected as new matter. Applicant argues Kawakami instead discloses an electrode material layer 102 comprised of 35% by weight or more of a host matrix material and between 1 and 30 by weight of an electrically conductive auxiliary material where the electrically conductive material includes carbonaceous and metal materials. It is unclear how Applicant concludes this section of Kawakami fails to teach the claimed mass ratio and no further explanation is given by Applicant.

Kawakami teaches the structural body comprises a host material 101 in an amount of 50 wt% or more. The layer 102 may comprise the host material 101 and an electrically conductive auxiliary in order to assist and increase the electron conduction among particles of the host material or that between the host material and the collector. It is preferred the electrically conductive auxiliary be contained in an amount of 1-30 wt%. The electrically conductive auxiliary may be a carbonaceous material such as acetylene black, ketjen black or graphite. Thus Kawakami teaches 1-30 wt% of a carbonaceous material is contained in the anode structural body. Again, the mass ratio limitation of claims 1 and 7 has been rejected as containing new matter.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Art Unit: 1726

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tracy Dove whose telephone number is 571-272-1285. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday & Tuesday (9:00-5:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Pat Ryan can be reached on 571-272-1292. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/TRACY DOVE/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1726

August 15, 2011